



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: WM-2

September 23, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes
Director of Public Works

ANNUAL SOFT-BOTTOM CHANNEL CLEARING STATUS OF PERMIT REQUESTS

This is a follow up to our memorandum dated September 16, 2002, advising you of the status of our permit requests with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Regional Water Quality Control Board to perform annual vegetation clearing in our soft-bottom channels.

We have received written authorization from the Corps to conduct our maintenance activities in soft-bottom channel reaches with no endangered species issues. As such, today we are commencing our clearing activities in 73 reaches located throughout the County. We are continuing to work with the Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the 25 soft-bottom channel reaches with potential endangered species issues. We are hopeful that our proposed minimization measures will allow for prompt resolution of these issues and that we will obtain authorization to conduct needed vegetation clearing in these additional 25 reaches.

Despite the fact that the Corps waived the Regional Board's Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the channel clearing, we have notified the Regional Board of the start of our maintenance activities. We have advised the Regional Board that we intend to follow certain conditions of their previous Section 401 Certification, which expired on February 11, 2002, out of consideration for water quality protection.

We will keep your Board apprised of our coordination with the Corps and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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